

Remarks/Arguments

In the specification, the paragraphs at Page 4, lines 31 and 33 respectively have been amended to correct minor editorial problems.

In amended Figures 1 and 2(b) the previously omitted descriptor "Prior Art" has been added.

Claims 8-12 remain in this application. New claims 13-15 have been added to further define the present invention.

Claims 8-12 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over Leason (US 4,113,627). Applicant disagrees.

The office action states that the device of Leason has each and every element of the present invention as claimed in claim 8 and provides citation to various elements in the drawings of Leason for support. However, Leason fails to teach the existence of the thermoplastic overmold flow passageway in the support parts as is required by the present claim. Leason only teaches the formation of an overmold piece on the outer edge of the two halves of device.

The Office Action states that as to claim 9, Leason has a means for minimizing the obturation of the filter element citing elements 156 and 174 as example of these means. The means is located between the inlet and the filter element to prevent a male luer fitting from touching the filter and closing off the fluid from the filter. Element 156 is a support plate for the filter and is located below the filter so it is not located between the inlet and the filter and is not capable of preventing obturation. Likewise, element 174 are legs that support the support plate above the outlet. It too is not between the inlet and the filter and is incapable of preventing obturation,

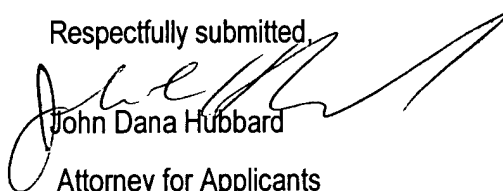
The Office Action says Leason shows a filter unit that has a means for centering the filter unit. Applicant has reviewed the specification of Leason and finds no description of a centering means especially a centering aid on the outer surface of the first support part as is claimed.

The Office Action says Leason shows an anti-obturation plate 156. Again the element 156 is a support plate for the filter and is located below the filter so it is not located between the inlet and the filter and is not capable of preventing obturation.

New claims 13-15 add additional elements of the invention such as the inner end of the thermoplastic overmold passageway(s) contains an aperture (21). This aperture is also filled with the thermoplastic sealing member and acts as a rivet to hold the two support parts together even when under high pressure. Support for the new claims is found at Pages 6 and 7 of the specification and in Figures 2(a) , 3(a) and (b) and 4.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks.

Respectfully submitted,

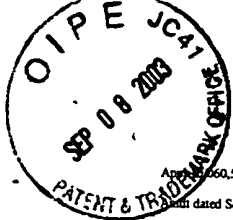


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